

2001 Legislation
PUC-3
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An Act to Allow Flexibility in Regulation of Telephone Utilities

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7108 is enacted to read:

§7108. Exemption for certain telephone utilities

1. Exemption. The commission may adopt by rule standards and procedures for granting exemptions to a telephone utility or a specified group of telephone utilities from all or specified portions of this Title. Any exemption granted pursuant to the rule must be accompanied by a finding that the exemption will not unduly diminish safety, consumer protection, or the public interest. A utility granted an exemption pursuant to a rule adopted under this section remains subject to other applicable provisions of this Title and commission rules.

For good cause, as defined by the commission by rule, the commission may revoke any exemption granted pursuant to this section. A revocation may be in whole or in part and may be specific to a single telephone utility or a single utility service.

Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

2. Report. On December 31st of each calendar year, the commission shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters a report describing the commission's activities in carrying out the requirements of this section.

Sec 2. 35-A MRSA § 307-A is repealed.

Sec 3. 35-A MRSA § 912 is repealed.

Sec 4. 35-A MRSA § 1105 is repealed.

SUMMARY

This legislation grants the Maine Public Utilities Commission the ability to exempt a telephone utility or a group of telephone utilities from a provision of Title 35-A and requires that the Commission finds that granting the exemption will adequately maintain standards of safety, consumer protection, and the public interest. The Commission must adopt standards and procedures for granting exemptions by rule and must inform the Committee of its activities.